



Menominee criticize Colombia over rebel leader

KESHENA, Wis. (AP) – Menominee Indian leaders say the United States should withhold assistance to Colombia after the country's president decided not to extradite a rebel leader accused of killing three U.S. Indian rights activists, including a member of the Wisconsin tribe.

German Briceno, a commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia who remains at large, will be tried instead in Colombia, President Andres Pastrana told The Associated Press Thursday, February 10.

Gwendolyn Washinawatok, whose daughter, Ingrid, was killed in March, said Briceno should face charges in the United States.

"I am certainly disappointed, but it was to be expected that they would be kept in their country," Washinawatok told the Shawano Leader.

Washington broke off exploratory contacts with the rebel forces after last year's killings.

Menominee Tribal Chairman Apesanahkwat said he was "very disillusioned" with the Clinton administration and State Department over

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Wolf River Development Company receives award

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh
Menominee Nation News

The Wolf River Development Company was recently recognized for Outstanding Sales Achievement. Mr. Paul Hunt, Wick Homes District Sales Manager accepted the award on behalf of the company at a banquet held in Wisconsin Dells on Sunday February 20th.

The Wolf River Development Company has been in operation since the Spring of 1999. Since then, 20 homes were built through the Company – 19 in Middle Village on the Menominee Reservation, and 1 model home in Keshena which is currently used as the main headquarters for Sales Representative Susan Tourtellott-Gomez.

Funding for the homes in Middle Village was provided by the Menominee Tribal Housing



MNN photo Y. Kaquatosh

Above, (left) Paul Hunt–Wick Homes District Sales Manager displays the Outstanding Sales Achievement plaque to Wilmer Peters, Jr.–Tribal Legislator, and John Seignemartin, Tribal Housing Director that was recently awarded to the Wolf River Development Company.

Department with construction coordinated by the Community Development Program.

According to Mr. Hunt, sales exceeded \$1 million and was 1 of 15 selected out of 100 competitors.

Tribe accuses man of Cyber Squatting

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A lawsuit filed by the Menominee Indian tribe accuses a man of *cyber-squatting* on almost two-dozen Internet domain names that use terms closely associated with the tribe.

The tribe said defendant Thomas

Weitz offered to sell the names to the tribe for \$575,000. It contends that he, in effect, held the tribe's "own names hostage for payment."

Weitz said his firm does not now own any domain names related to the Menominee tribe. He declined to say whether he or his firm had sold the rights to the names.

"I don't believe they (the tribe) have trademarks on any of their names," he said. "If you don't have a trademark, the Internet's a big place."

Among the domain names Weitz listed with Network Solutions Inc., which registers domain names, are

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Potawatomi critical of Menominee casino proposal

MILWAUKEE (AP) – The Forest County Potawatomi tribe, which operates a casino at Milwaukee, is objecting to the Menominee tribe's proposal for a casino and operation of the Dairyland Greyhound Park at Kenosha.

It said in a 39-page brief filed this week with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs that the Menominee facility would cause Potawatomi tribal revenue from its Milwaukee casino to drop by 85 percent.

"The Kenosha casino proposal is predatory" the Potawatomi said.

The Potawatomi also contended the dog track casino would violate the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act by making non-Indians the primary beneficiaries of the new casino.

The tribe said that the Kenosha proposal would primarily benefit NII-JII entertainment, a partner in the

venture, at the expense of the Menominee.

The firm would take 35 percent of the profits and own the surrounding land while the tribe would be on the hook for the \$200 million debt needed to build the gambling hall.

But NII-JII investor Joseph Madrigano said some of the company's investors will guarantee at least \$40 million of the debt and possibly more if the underwriters demand it.

Apesanahkwat, the Menominee tribal chairman, the drop in Potawatomi tribal revenues if the Kenosha facility opens was "tough."

"If these folks don't have the sophistication to enter free enterprise in America, then they need to hire a better marketing director," he said.

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Pastrana's decision.

Apesanahkwat said it was "unconscionable to be sending American dollars to a country" that refuses to send an accused murder for trial in the United States.

"Until that happens they should not get any more US money," he said.

Congress began debate this week on a \$1.6 billion aid package to Colombia, which would make Colombia the third-largest recipient of US assistance. Most of the money would help the Colombian government fight its war against drug cartels.

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Menomineenation.com, menomineecasino.org, keshena.com, and menomineegaming.com, according to the suit, filed this week in federal court here. Keshena is the government seat of the tribe, the suit says.

The suit alleges the names Menominee and Keshena qualify for trademark protection because they are 'famous marks' as defined in federal trademark law.

Weitz is named as a defendant along with his business, Neat 'N Clean, Inc., and two of its divisions, Domains 4 Lease and World Vision. Native Advertising, an Antigua corporation that sells Internet services, also is named as a defendant, as is Network Solutions.